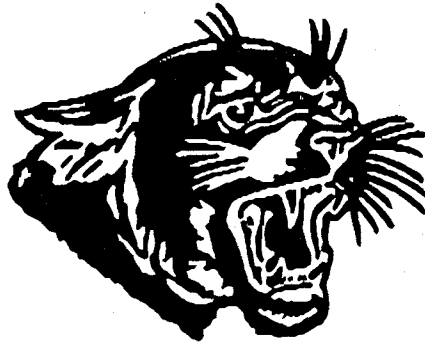


**Jefferson High School**  
School District #1  
P.O. Box 838  
Boulder, Montana 59632  
225-3317/225-3289



**Boulder Elementary School**  
School District #7  
P.O. Box 838  
Boulder, Montana 59632  
225-3316  
225-3340

**Superintendent/Clerk**  
225-3740

March 12, 2007

Chairman Mendenhall and Members of the House Business Committee:

My name is Robert Klein. I am the Superintendent of the Clancy Elementary School District, the Boulder Elementary School District and the Jefferson High School District. All of these districts obtain group medical insurance through the Montana Schools Health and Welfare Plans (MSHWP), a pooled plan program. This plan has worked well for our schools with an average rate increase over the past 5 years of a comparatively moderate 6.6%.

Our schools oppose SB186. This legislation could create an insurance environment in which a school district with low claims loss ratios is offered low rates necessitating that a comparable school district with bad claims loss ratios would be targeted for very high renewal rates. This notion contradicts the concept of pooling for premium stability and fails to address any of the critical issues that providing employee health insurance presents to our school districts.

I urge you to vote "no" on SB186. Thank you.

Respectfully,